AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A motion image decoding apparatus for decoding compressed image data obtained through timebase predictive coding effected to compress a motion image, comprising:

an image reproduction portion receiving said compressed image data to generate reproduced image data;

an orthogonal transform and compression portion receiving an output from said image reproduction portion to effect orthogonal transform for each predetermined data transform block for data compression, said orthogonal transform and compression portion switching for each said predetermined data transform block a rounding system applied after said orthogonal transform, said switching of the rounding system corresponding to alternating between a first rounding operation biased to increase a numeral value in absolute value and a second rounding operation biased to decrease the numeral value in absolute value; and

a storage receiving an output from said orthogonal transform and compression portion for storing therein reference image data for said predictive coding.

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Claim 2 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said orthogonal transform and compression portion effects Hadamard transform as said orthogonal transform.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said orthogonal transform and compression portion switches for each said predetermined data transform block a level of a threshold value for a rounding operation effected after said orthogonal transform.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said orthogonal transform and compression portion effects Hadamard transform as said orthogonal transform.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said compressed image data includes a luminance signal and a color difference signal; and for said luminance signal said orthogonal transform and compression portion switches for each said predetermined data transform block said rounding system applied after said orthogonal transform, and for said color difference signal for a DC component said orthogonal transform and compression portion switches for each said predetermined data transform block said rounding system applied after said orthogonal transform and for an AC component effects truncation for any said predetermined data transform block.

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Claim 6 (original): The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said orthogonal compression and transform portion effects Hadamard transform as said orthogonal transform.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of decoding a motion image, comprising the steps of:

generating first reproduced image data based on source image data reproduced from a signal of compressed image data obtained through timebase predictive coding in compression of a motion image, or generating said first reproduced image data based on the reproduced source image data and reference image data;

switching a rounding system after orthogonal transform for each predetermined data transform block of said first reproduced image data, effecting orthogonal transform coding, and generating second reproduced image data having an amount of data smaller bitwise than said first reproduced image data, said switching of the rounding system corresponding to alternating between a first rounding operation biased to increase a numeral value in absolute value and a second rounding operation biased to decrease the numeral value in absolute value;

storing to a reference image memory said second reproduced image data required to generate said reference image data; and

generating from said second reproduced image data stored in said reference image memory said reference image data corresponding to said first reproduced image data.

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Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 7, wherein in the step of switching,
Hadamard transform is effected as said orthogonal transform.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 7, wherein in the step of switching, for each said predetermined data transform block after said orthogonal transform said rounding has a threshold value switched in level.

Claim 10 (original): The method according to claim 9, wherein in the step of switching,
Hadamard transform is effected as said orthogonal transform.

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